

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

a₁ [0001] The present application is related to co-pending and commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/830,480, INTERNET BASED HEARING ASSESSMENT METHODS, invented by Menzel et al.; filed 26 April 2001; and to co-pending and commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/975,863, SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR REMOTELY CALIBRATING A SYSTEM FOR ADMINISTERING INTERACTIVE HEARING TESTS, invented by Menzel, et. al; filed on the same day as the present application.

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

a₂ [0006] A variety of uses for hearing profiles, other than for the purposes of prescribing hearing aids and assistive listening devices, is being developed. For example, hearing profiles of individuals can be utilized for producing customized audio products, such as pre-recorded music that has been modified according to the hearing profile of the listener. One medium for delivering customized audio products is the Internet. See, co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. ~~[[xxxx]]~~09/957,344, entitled SOUND ENHANCEMENT FOR MOBILE PHONES AND OTHER PRODUCTS PRODUCING PERSONALIZED AUDIO FOR USERS, invented by Rader, et al. filed 20 September 2001; and co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. ~~[[xxxx]]~~09/464,036, entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PRODUCING AND STORING HEARING PROFILES AND CUSTOMIZED AUDIO DATA BASED ON SUCH HEARING PROFILES, invented by Pluvinae, et al., filed 15 December 1999.

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

a₃ [0009] Some efforts have been made to develop a technique for allowing a web site visitor to measure their hearing loss in an efficient and consistent way that is self-administered. (See, web sites: "~~www.handtronix.com,~~" "~~www.onlinehearing.com,~~" "~~www.nigelworks.com/Pages/software/hearingtest/Version3.5/indexforv3.5.html,~~" "~~http://weinstein.enefamily.com/AAI/~~," "~~www.freehearingtest.com,~~" and

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“~~www.didyouhear.me.com.~~”) Some of these attempts have implemented procedures that are similar to if not identical to a clinical audiogram, where a tone is presented and the listener responds if they heard the sound, in a type of yes-no threshold test. Other attempts implement a screening procedure where tones are presented and results are based on whether or not you heard those tones with no adjustment of sound presentation based on user response.

Please replace paragraph [0010] with the following amended paragraph:

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[0010] The yes-no procedures of the prior art are not well suited for self-administered testing, and web implementation of a ~~[[hear]]~~ hearing test demands self-administration. One reason is because the listener can fake a threshold and pretend that they are better than they really are, and yes-no procedures are susceptible to user bias. The prior art tests that do not adaptively find a hearing threshold are crude screeners that do not provide significant information about the person's hearing loss. The prior art tests that adapt the stimulus based on user input, also use basic yes-no procedures. Thus the result is determined based on analysis of yes responses and no responses to a sequence of queries. See, e.g., ANSI S3.21 - 1978, “Methods for Manual Pure-Tone Threshold Audiometry,” and the description of computer controlled Bekesy Audiometry in ANSI S3.6-1996, “Specification for Audiometers.”

Please replace paragraph [0066] with the following amended paragraph:

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[0066] During the test phase, the mixer slider level automatically cycles from above the threshold to below the threshold to back above the threshold. A new cycle is initiated by the user input that indicates that the threshold has been crossed. Fig. ~~[[10]]~~ 9 is a plot of a mixer level versus time, with a trace 70 of the masker sound level as it traverses a threshold level 71, and reverses after user inputs at times 72, 73, 74 and 75. Specific signal levels and slopes of the traces are determined based upon empirical analysis.

Please replace paragraph [0092] with the following amended paragraph:

ac [0092] A technique allows a web site visitor, or other user of a consumer electronics device that is remote from a hearing test server, to measure their hearing loss in an efficient and consistent way which is self-administered, and to store the measurements as a hearing profile which can be used for customizing audio products. The technique includes a method for conducting a hearing test using a computer program. The method includes establishing a communication channel between a remote device and server in a communication network. A first component of the computer program is executed on the server, and a second component of the computer program is executed at the remote device. The computer program according to the invention comprises a routine to manage interaction via an interface on the remote device, and adaptively select stimuli based upon the interaction to be produced at the remote device according to a convergent process to determine a hearing characteristic. The interaction comprises an N-alternative forced choice interaction in one embodiment. The convergent process comprises a staircase function or a maximum likelihood function in alternative embodiments of the invention.
